

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments above and the following comments.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Voight et al. ("Voight"), U.S. Patent No. 4,898,645.

Claims 1, 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Difelice et al. ("Difelice"), *Combust. Sci. and Tech.*, 1996, 116-117 (1), pp. 5-30.

In response to both anticipation rejections, Applicants note that the Examiner indicates in the middle of page 3 of the Office Action that these rejections are maintained because steps c) and d) in claim 1 are optional. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1, step b) to delete the reference to "optionally." Accordingly, steps c) and d) are now mandatory.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that neither Voight nor Difelice anticipates, and, therefore, that the Examiner should reconsider and withdraw both anticipation rejections. An early notice that both anticipation rejections have been reconsidered and withdrawn is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

In order to advance the prosecution, withdrawn claim 13 has been canceled.

New claim 14 is dependent on claim 1, and simply requires either R-124, R-125 or R-133a as the starting material. Such claim is amply supported by claims 3-12, all of

which have one of these starting materials. R-124 is the starting material in claims 5 and 10. R-125 is the starting material in claims 8, 9 and 11. And R-133a is the starting material in claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 12. Also, the table appended to the instant specification shows each of these starting materials being used as described herein. In short, Applicants do not believe that new claim 14 introduces any new matter.

**Finally, Applicants point out that an information disclosure statement was filed on October 1, 2003. Private PAIR shows this information disclosure statement was logged in as received in Tech Center 1600/2900 on October 6, 2003. To date, Applicants have not received the initialed Form 1449 from the Examiner showing all of the cited references have been considered. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner return a copy of the initialed Form 1449 along with the next Office Action or, hopefully, the Notice of Allowance.**

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a bona fide response to all outstanding objections and rejections.

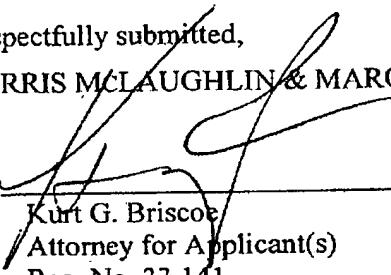
Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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